

Seattle Fire Prevention Division

220 3rd Avenue S. Seattle, WA 98104-2608

Phone: 206-386-1450 Fax: 206-386-1348



Seattle Fire Department Implementation of The Compliance Engine

Helpful FAQs for Companies Performing the Testing

- **Why is the Seattle Fire Department contracting with Brycer to enhance the confidence testing program?** To ensure we deliver on our mission of protecting life and property. The Compliance Engine (TCE) is the vehicle that will track all the fire protections systems in Seattle and when they are due for their confidence testing, as well as ensure that maintenance on deficient systems is accomplished. TCE is the most cost effective way for the City to enforce our fire code with the goal of keeping our buildings, residents, visitors and firefighters safe.
- **Why was Brycer chosen as the vendor for the SFD?** The alignment of Brycer's mission and services is the best fit for Seattle's confidence testing needs. TCE's ease of use for both service providers and SFD staff was a key criterion in our selection process. TCE's experience, references (both AHJ and Service Providers) and results in large cities utilizing TCE stand alone in the market. The price point for services offered was the most economical for both Seattle and the Service Providers. We were able through competitive bid to identify the partner with the best quality solution to ensure success in our confidence testing program. In addition, several other neighboring cities and jurisdictions have already implemented TCE, so this provides a more consistent regional approach to systems testing oversight.
- **Who owns the data?** The SFD and the testing company own the data. Brycer's "terms of use" agreement is a great place to look for the protection of data language. Additionally, Brycer and the city of Seattle have a contract which addresses the ownership of data.
- **Will I be able to see my competitor's reports?** No. You will only see the test reports your company submits. You will not see any other reports or even if the premise has other fire protection systems. We understand this may be different from other technologies you are more familiar with.
- **Can I see what systems are at a building if I am not the contractor for a particular system?** No. A contractor will only be able to find a location by address. A contractor will not be able to see what systems are at the building and when a system is due to be tested.
- **If an employee who had access to the database leaves our company will they still have access to TCE?** The user permissions are controlled at your company level. You (Service Provider) will need to disable access for employees who should not have access to your site.
- **Does Brycer have ownership in companies that inspect and test fire protection systems?** No. Brycer has no ownership in a company that competes with the testing companies. We understand this is not true for others that compete in Brycer's market.
- **Do I have to use The Compliance Engine's online inspection forms?** The City of Seattle will be utilizing our own standard form for each system. These forms are not Brycer's.
- **Pricing?** The fee is \$30 per system type, per property. Most system types require testing once a year so the fee will be required once a year. We will also collect \$30 for the repair report.
- **Are quarterly tests required to pay additional fees?** No. After the first test is submitted and the \$30 fee is paid, additional test for that system can be submitted without incurring an additional fee until the following

year. We would prefer that the providers submit test reports as those tests occur and you will not incur an additional fee for doing so.

- **What will the SFD be using the cost recovery money from the \$30 fee for?** A portion of the fee is used to pay the Brycer team for their technology and service offering. The additional funds are used to fund dedicated personnel for the SFD to manage the program and support compliance with fire code requirements relating to fire protection systems.
- **Will there be an option for testing vendors to purchase credits or buy test report fees in bulk?** No.
- **Will the overall cost be locked or guaranteed? What keeps it from not inflating?** We have a contract with Brycer and any fee increase will need to be approved by the SFD.
- **Will we be charged per riser, floor and/or flow switch?** No.
- **Do I have to pay to register?** No, registration is free. If your company is already registered for use with another city, you will not need to register another account to file reports in Seattle.
- **Has Seattle talked with other cities using The Compliance Engine to understand their experience?** Yes. The SFD has discussed the use of TCE with several cities and the feedback has been positive. These conversations have been instrumental in assisting us with the selection of TCE and how to best implement TCE into our confidence testing program.
- **How will the initial database of properties and fire protection systems be created in The Compliance Engine?** Brycer and the SFD have been compiling the database for several months. We have identified roughly 25K unique fire protection systems and their property information. Our goal is to have most of the database built before going live with report submittal. That said, we understand that the database will not be 100% correct. We look forward to building on our partnership with the contractors to fill in missing properties, systems and contact information. This is another key reason for selecting Brycer to partner with as the database is critical component to a successful program
- **What level of customer service can we expect from the Brycer team?** Brycer offers 24/7/365 customer service to both the SFD and all registered contractor users. This includes complimentary training for all users of the application. It's called the Brycer Advantage program.
- **When will an overdue notice be sent to a property?** An overdue notice will not be sent to a property for 30 days following the month that the system was due to be tested. This allows for scheduling conflicts and grants time to submit the report before a property is notified.

For more information, visit...

www.thecomplianceengine.com

www.seattle.gov/fire/FMO/confidenceTesting/ct.htm

For questions, please contact:

SFD_FMO_SystemsTesting@seattle.gov